

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - LEADING TAIPEI DAILIES TOOK A GENERALLY DIM EDITORIAL VIEW RESULTS U.S. MIDTERM ELECTIONS. WATERGATE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES SEEN AS MAIN CAUSE REPUBLICAN DEFEATS. CHINA TIMES HOPED DEMOCRATS WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND WORK WITH PRESIDENT FORD ON A RATIONAL BASIS, CNA CARRIED A BOX SCORE OF PRO-ROC WINNERS AND LOSES. END SUMMARY.

2. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) EDITORIALY BLAMED DETERIORATING U.S. WORLD POPULARITY AND CREDIBILITY, CAUSED BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLICIES, AND PUBLIC DOUBTS ABOUT GOP RESULTING FROM WATERGATE, FOR DEMOCRATIC VICTORIES. PAPER SAW TWO IMMEDIATE EFFECTS: (1) GOP DIFFICULTIES IN 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, (2) DEMOCRATIC DOMINATION OF CONGRESS FOR LEAST TWO YEARS. BUT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT TWO PARTIES COOPERATE IN THESE PARTICULARLY

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TRYING TIMES THAN WHETHER FORD OR A DEMOCRAT WINS IN 1976.

WHAT AMERICAN ALLIES ARE HOPING FOR IS NEITHER OVERPOWERING U.S. PRESIDENT NOR ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIP IN CONGRESS. CENTRAL ISSUE IS RATIONALISM, ON WHICH U.S. WAS BUILT AND FROM WHICH U.S. BECAME GREAT NATION. PAPER HOPED THAT, WITH WATERGATE NIGHTMARE GONE, DEMOCRATS WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH FORD TO BUILD UNIFIED NATION IN INTEREST OF U.S. AS WELL WORLD.

3. CHINA TIMES RESPECTED COLUMNIST YEN YU-CHENG (RETURNED CU GRANTEE) SAID RESULTS NOT AS BAD AS MOST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBED. PRESIDENT FORD NOT ACTUALLY IN HELPLESS SHAPE. IN LIGHT UNIQUE U.S. POLITICAL SYSTEM, DIFFERING FROM BRITISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS, U.S. CONGRESS CAN ONLY ACT AS CONSTITUTION PRESCRIBES. HENCE, HIGH-CALIBER PRESIDENT CANNOT BE PARALYZED BY CONGRESS. YEN SAID POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP IN CONGRESS HAS BEEN FURTHER DILUTED, AND TWO-PARTY FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUES INTACT DESPITE OVERWHELMING DEMOCRATIC PLURALITY AND NEW FIREBRANDS IN CONGRESS. YEN THOUGHT 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL NOT BE HEAVILY AFFECTED BY 1974 RESULTS SINCE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS GENERALLY DEPEND MORE ON PERSONALITIES OF CANDIDATES. IF ELECTION WERE HELD NOW, FORD WOULD WIN HANDS DOWN OVER ANY DEMOCRAT, YEN SAID.

4. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) URGED NEW CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT FORD BE MORE APPREHENSIVE OF CHINESE AND SOVIET COMMUNISTS AND DEVOTE THEIR COLLECTIVE ENERGIES TO MATTERS OF SECURITY, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY. DR. PHILLIP CHEN OF TAMKANG COLLEGE'S AMERICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, ANALYSING RESULTS FOR THE PAPER, SAID DEMOCRATIC VICTORY CAME MAINLY OVER BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, THE IMPACT OF WATERGATE AND PRESIDENT FORD'S UNTIMELY DECISION ON A TAX SURCHARGE.

5. CHINA DAILY NEWS (80,000) THOUGHT THE LOW TURNOUT OF VOTERS CLEARLY INDICATED AMERICAN POLITICAL PASSIVENESS FOLLOWING THE WEARY WATERGATE STRUGGLE AND OVER-EXPLOITATION OF THE ISSUE BY THE DEMOCRATS.

6. CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (CNA) WASHINGTON-DATELINED REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ALL PAPERS LISTED 20 SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN CONSIDERED FRIENDLY TO ROC, SUCH AS SENATORS GOLDWATER AND TOWER, AND REPRESENTATIVES DERWINSKI, LOTT, CRANE AND ASHBROOK. CNA SAID SOME STRONG ROC SUPPORTERS LOST, INCLUDING SENATOR DOMINICK. BUT ROC GAINED NEW SUPPORTER IN SENATOR-ELECT LOUIS WYMAN WHO ALWAYS BACKED ROC IN HOUSE. CNA NAMED 10 CONGRESSMEN, ALL ROC FRIENDS, WHO WERE DEFEATED, INCLUDING, REPRESENTATIVES HUNT, LANDGREBE,

PRICE, SCHERLE AND ZION.
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